

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 are pending in the application. Claims 1-4, 8-11, and 15-18 currently stand rejected. Claims 5-7, 12-14, and 19-21 are objected to. Claims 1, 6-8, 13-15, 20, and 21 have been amended. Claims 5, 12, and 19 have been canceled. The Applicant respectfully requests allowance of the claims and consideration of the following remarks.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner indicates that claims 5-7, 12-14, and 19-21 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim (Final OA, p. 5, item 6).

35 U.S.C. § 102(e) Rejection

Claims 1-3, 8-10, and 15-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 7,136,374 (Kompella). The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection for at least the following reasons.

Claims 1, 8, and 15 have been amended to include the limitations of claims 5, 12, and 19, respectively. Therefore, amended claims 1, 8, and 15 contain allowable subject matter, and the rejection of claims 1, 8, and 15 should be withdrawn accordingly.

While separately allowable over the art of record, the remaining dependent claims depend from otherwise allowable independent claims. The Applicant therefore refrains from a discussion of the dependent claims.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejections

Claims 4, 11, and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kompella, in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0223499 (Sanderson). A discussion of this rejection is obviated in view of the discussion above regarding independent claims 1, 8, and 15.

While separately allowable over the art of record, the remaining dependent claims depend from otherwise allowable independent claims. The Applicant therefore refrains from a discussion of the dependent claims.

CONCLUSION

Based on the above remarks, the Applicant submits that the claims in their present form are allowable. Additional reasons in support of patentability exist, but such reasons are omitted in the interests of clarity and brevity. The Applicant respectfully requests allowance of the claims.

The Applicant believes no fees are due with respect to this filing. However, should the Office determine fees are necessary, the Office is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 21-0765.

Respectfully submitted,

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SIGNATURE OF PRACTITIONER

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